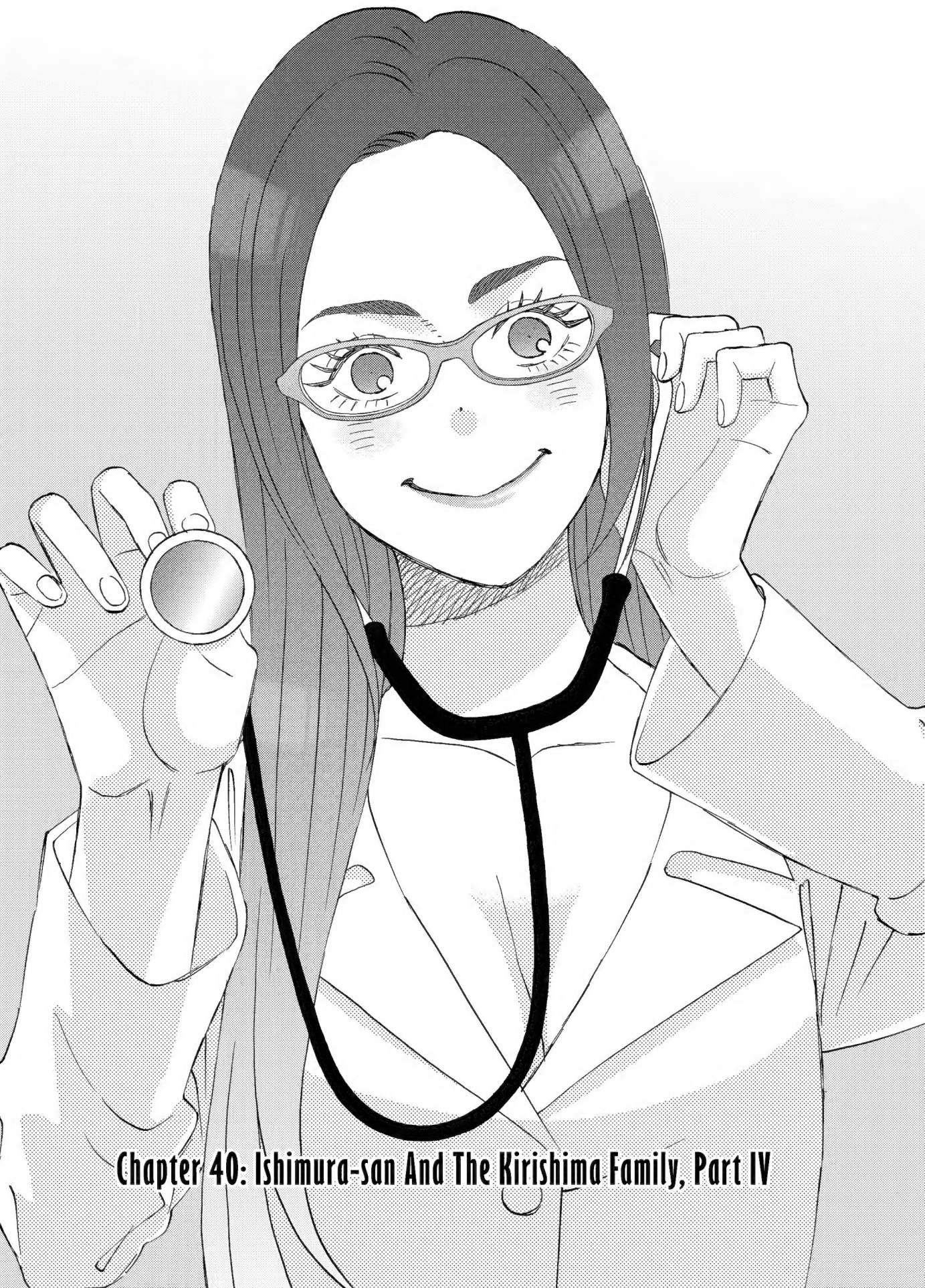
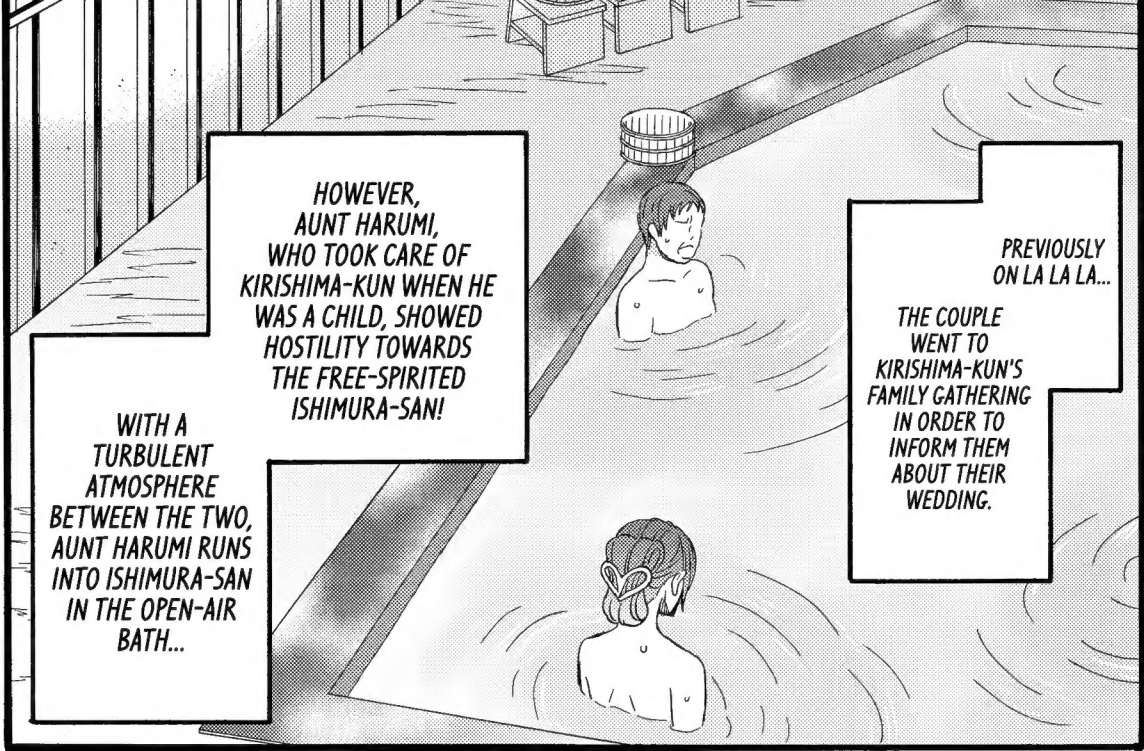




Chapter 40: Ishimura-san And The Kirishima Family, Part IV

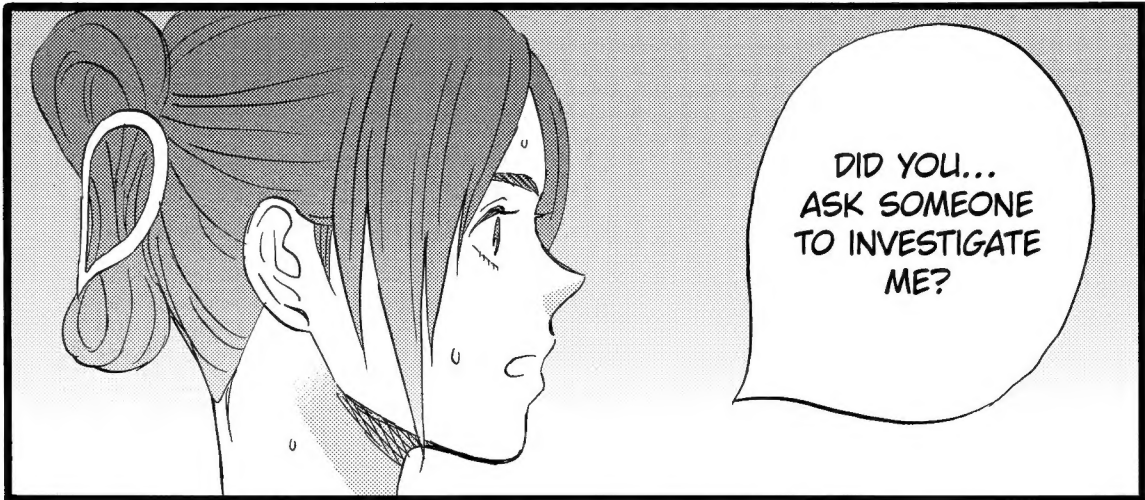


HOWEVER,
AUNT HARUMI,
WHO TOOK CARE OF
KIRISHIMA-KUN WHEN HE
WAS A CHILD, SHOWED
HOSTILITY TOWARDS
THE FREE-SPIRITED
ISHIMURA-SAN!

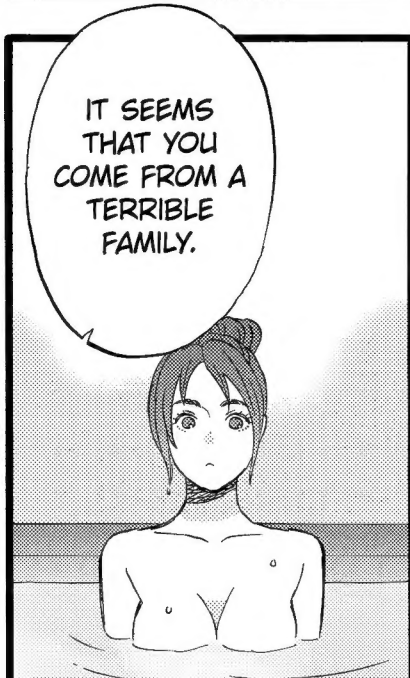
WITH A
TURBULENT
ATMOSPHERE
BETWEEN THE TWO,
AUNT HARUMI RUNS
INTO ISHIMURA-SAN
IN THE OPEN-AIR
BATH...

PREVIOUSLY
ON LA LA LA...

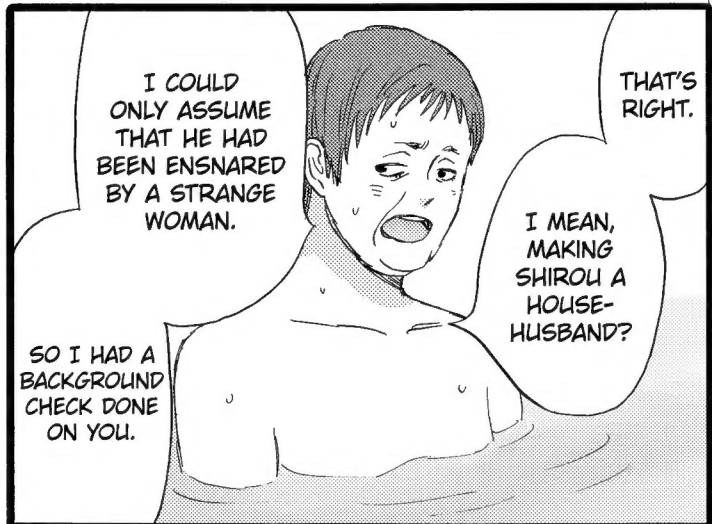
THE COUPLE
WENT TO
KIRISHIMA-KUN'S
FAMILY GATHERING
IN ORDER TO
INFORM THEM
ABOUT THEIR
WEDDING.



DID YOU...
ASK SOMEONE
TO INVESTIGATE
ME?



IT SEEMS
THAT YOU
COME FROM A
TERRIBLE
FAMILY.

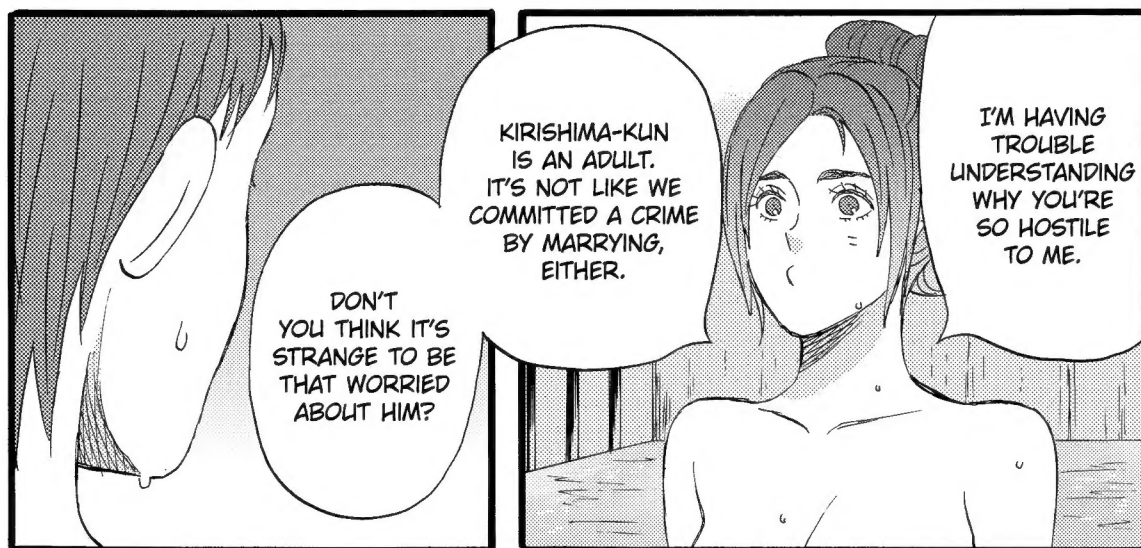
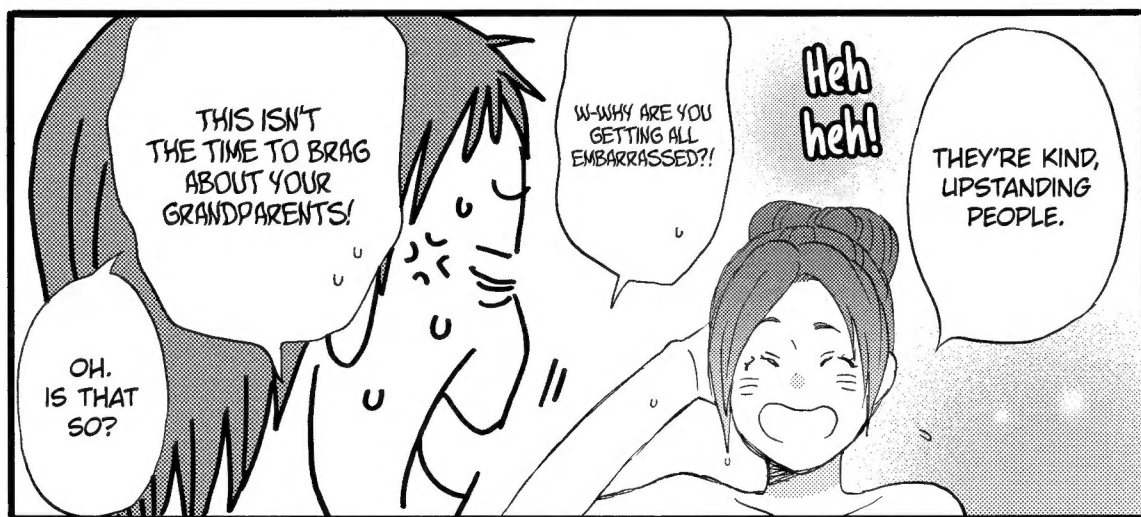
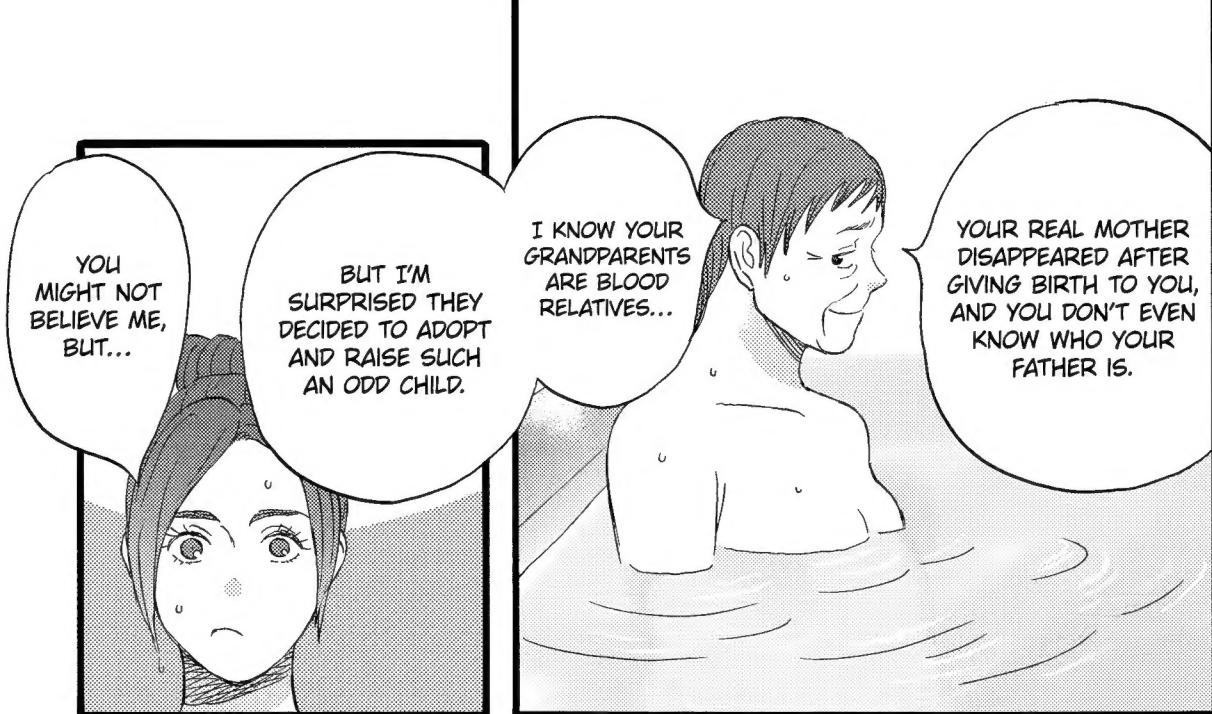


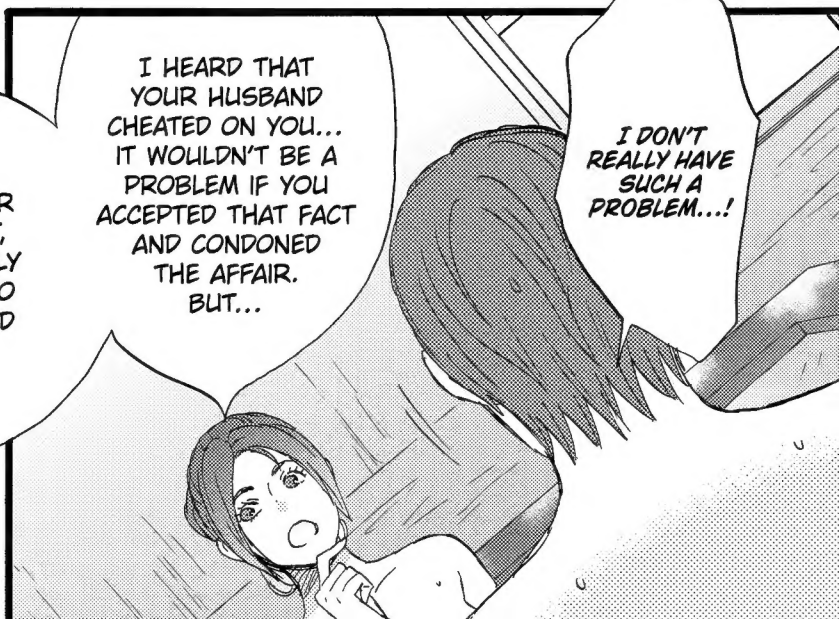
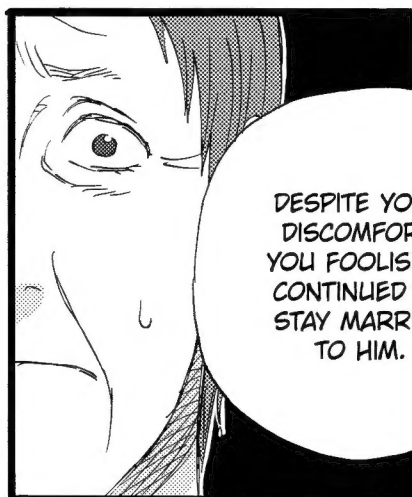
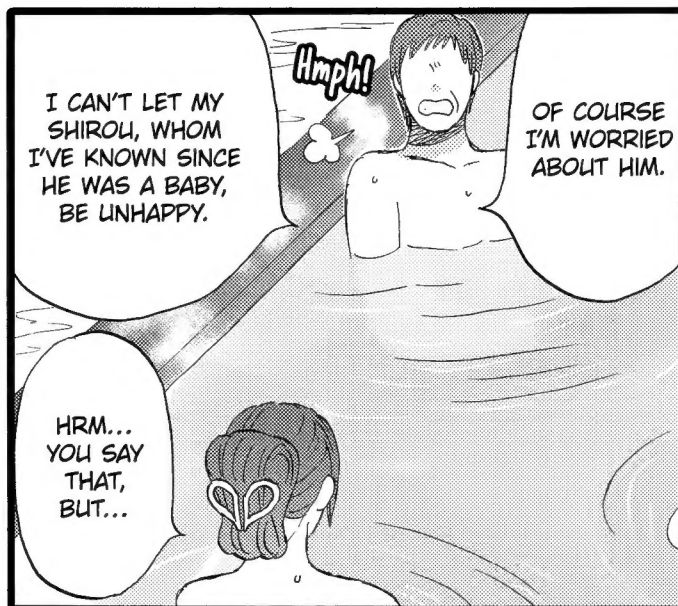
I COULD
ONLY ASSUME
THAT HE HAD
BEEN ENSNARED
BY A STRANGE
WOMAN.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

I MEAN,
MAKING
SHIROU A
HOUSE-
HUSBAND?

SO I HAD A
BACKGROUND
CHECK DONE
ON YOU.

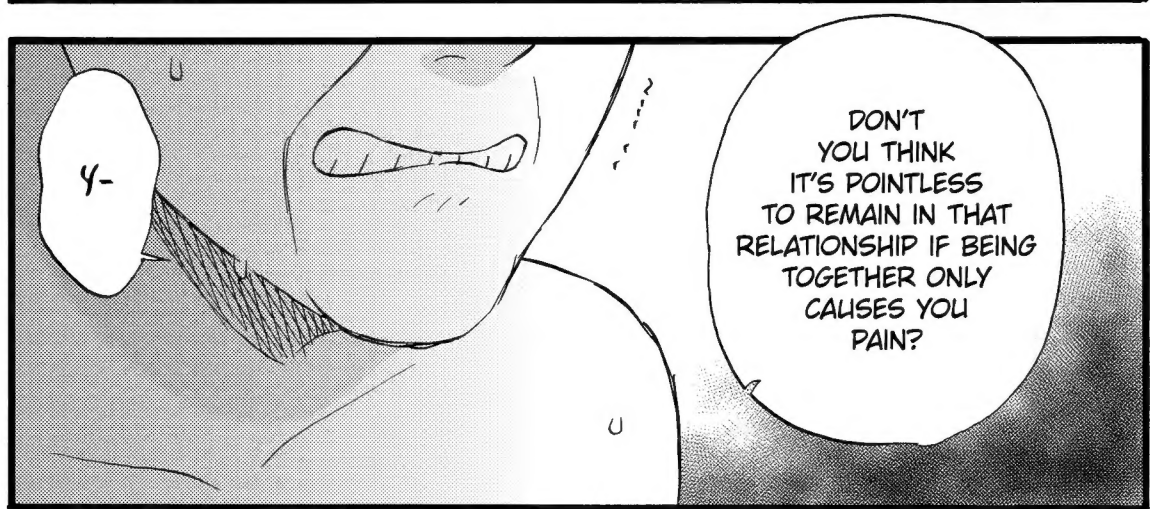






YOU DECIDE
ON A PARTNER
TO SHARE YOUR
LIFE WITH, AND
YOU MOVE IN
WITH AND LIVE
TOGETHER.

I'M NO
EXPERT IN
THESE MATTERS,
BUT ISN'T MARRIAGE
A WAY FOR
PEOPLE TO FIND
HAPPINESS?



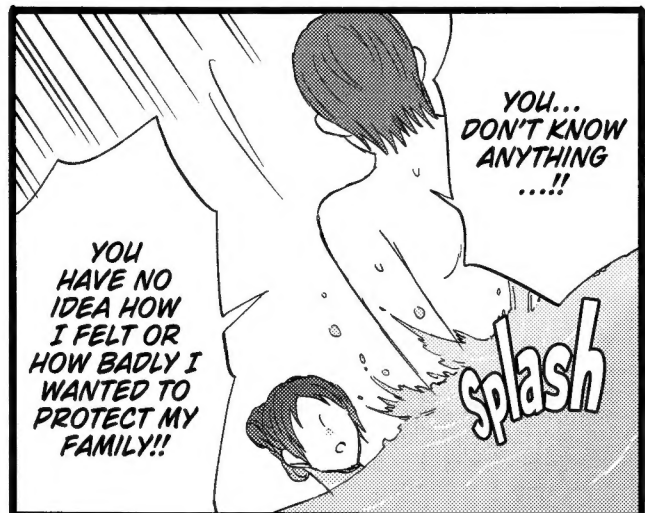
y-

DON'T
YOU THINK
IT'S POINTLESS
TO REMAIN IN THAT
RELATIONSHIP IF BEING
TOGETHER ONLY
CAUSES YOU
PAIN?



...MARRIAGE?

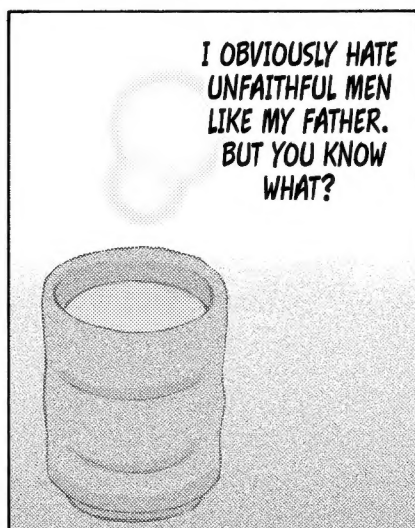
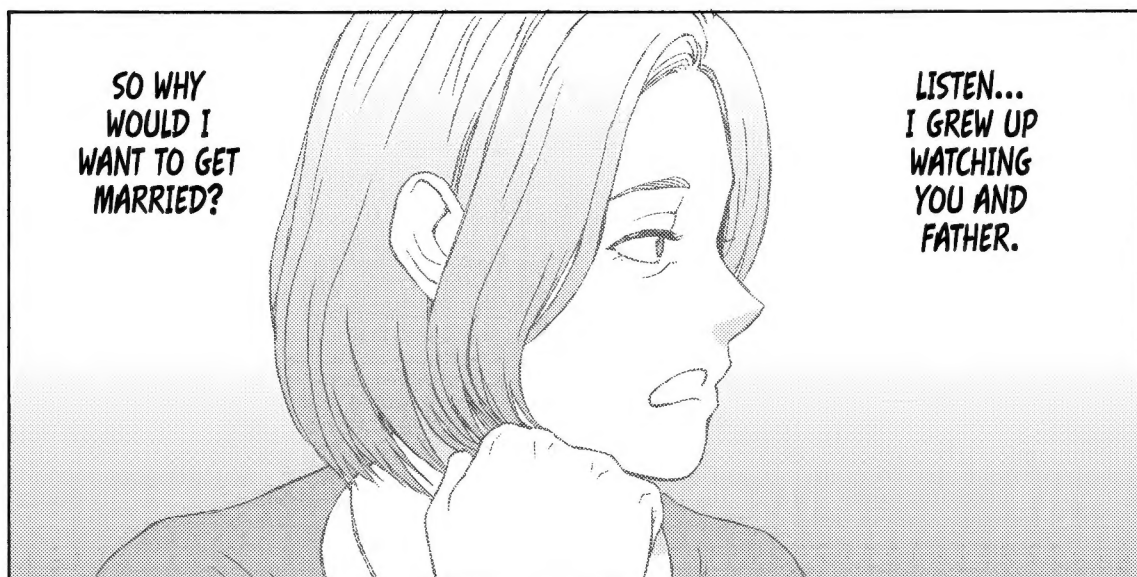
MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY AREN'T
THINGS YOU CAN
EASILY GIVE
UP ON!

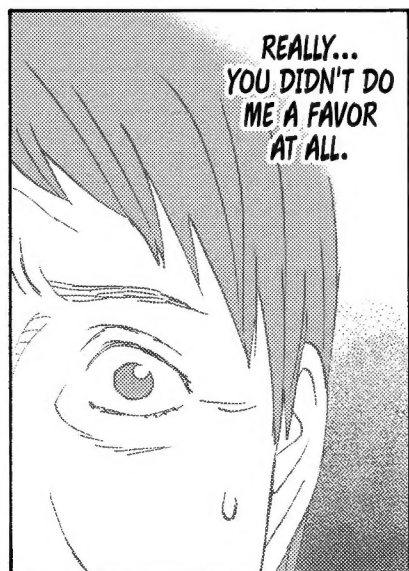


YOU
HAVE NO
IDEA HOW
I FELT OR
HOW BADLY I
WANTED TO
PROTECT MY
FAMILY!!

YOU...
DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING
...!!

splash

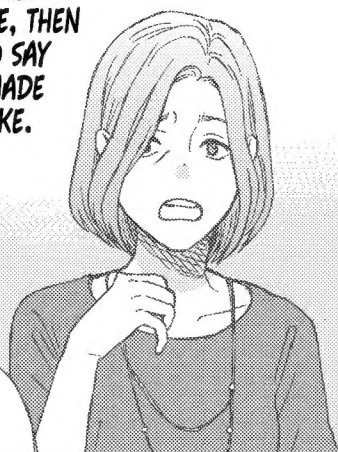




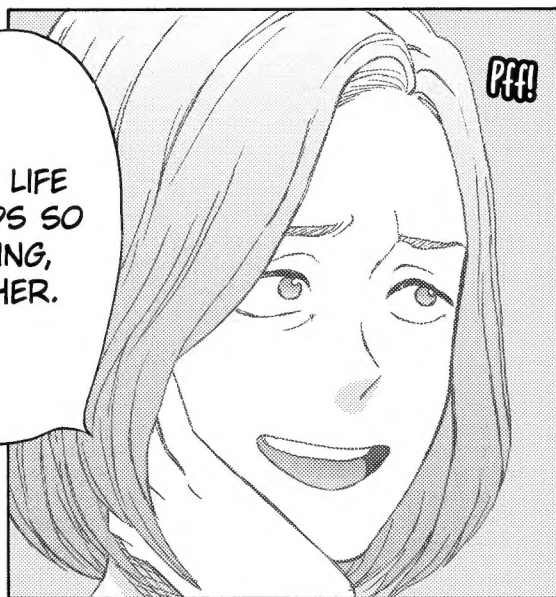
REALLY...
YOU DIDN'T DO
ME A FAVOR
AT ALL.



IF THE
REASON YOU
DIDN'T DIVORCE HIM
WAS FOR THE SAKE
OF YOUR CHILD...
FOR MY SAKE, THEN
I HAVE TO SAY
YOU'VE MADE
A MISTAKE.



YOUR LIFE
SOUNDS SO
BORING,
MOTHER.



PC!!



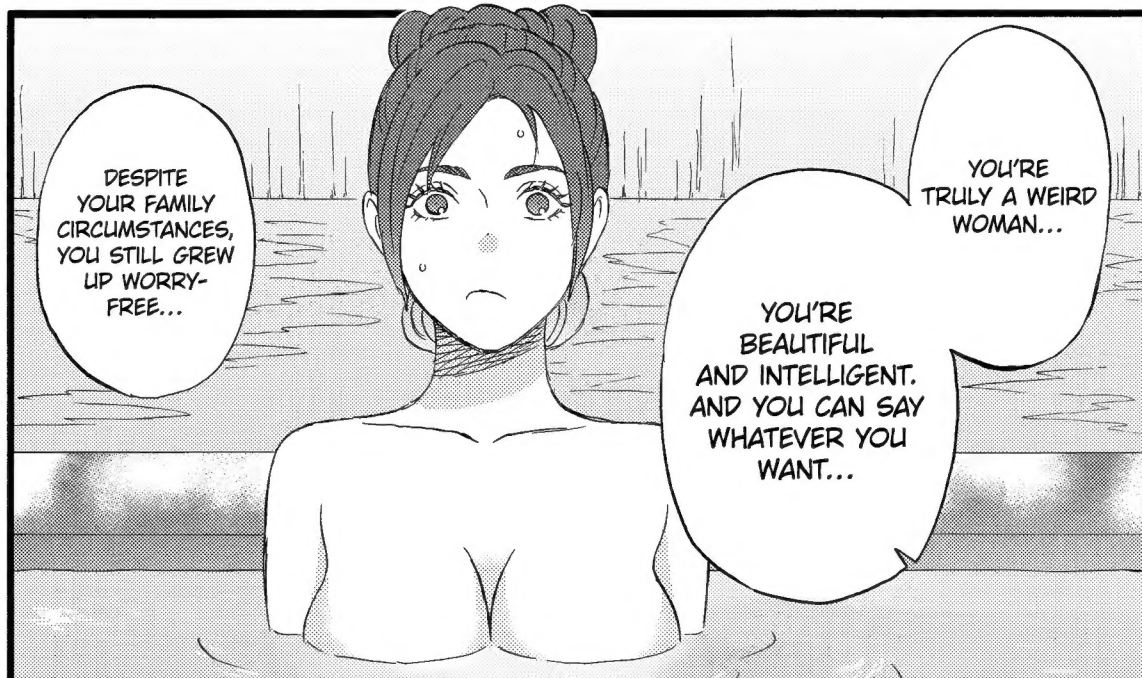
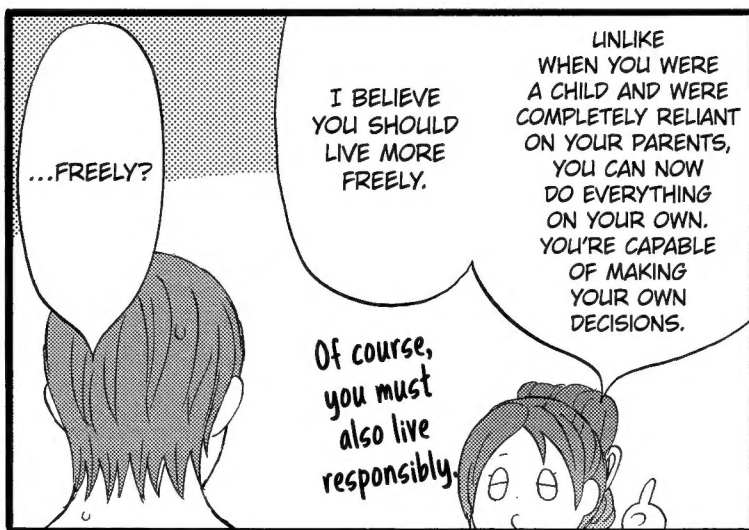
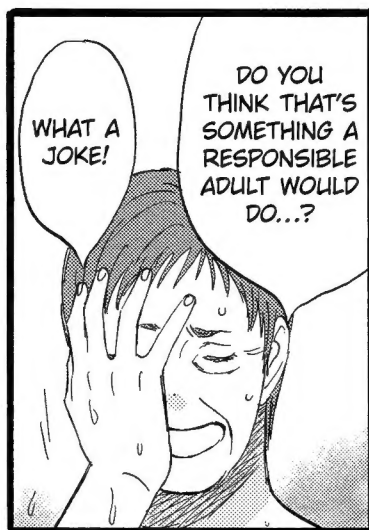
...

YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW
MUCH I'VE
ENDURED...!!



YOU...

YOU SHOULD
TRY LIVING THE
WAY YOU WANT TO
SOMETIMES.





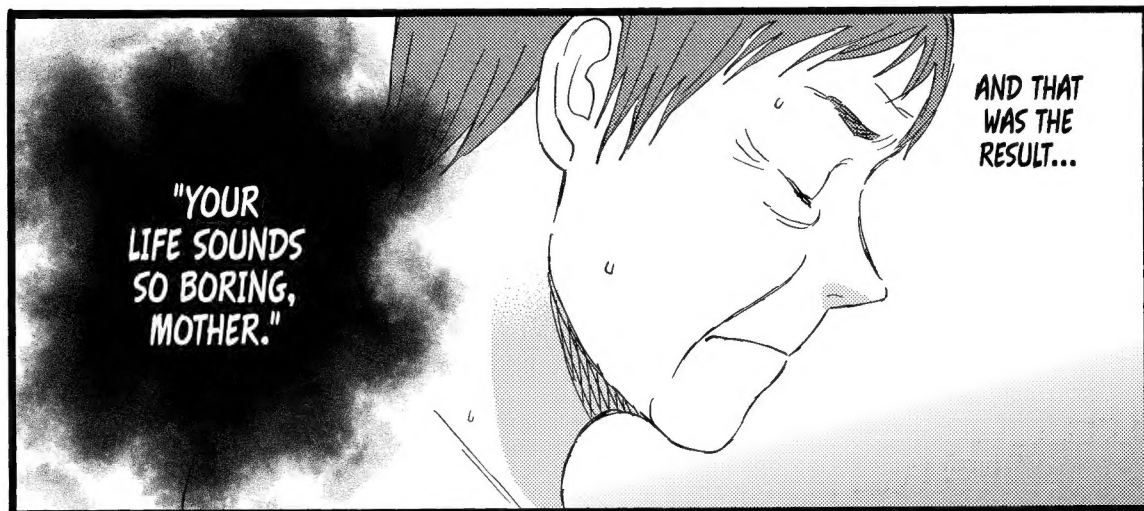
EVEN
SO, I KEPT
ENDURING
IT...

OVER
AND OVER
AGAIN...



...I'VE LOST
COUNT OF THE
NUMBER OF TIMES
I'VE ENTERTAINED
THAT THOUGHT.

I BET
YOU NEVER
WANTED TO
DIE.



"YOUR
LIFE SOUNDS
SO BORING,
MOTHER."

AND THAT
WAS THE
RESULT...

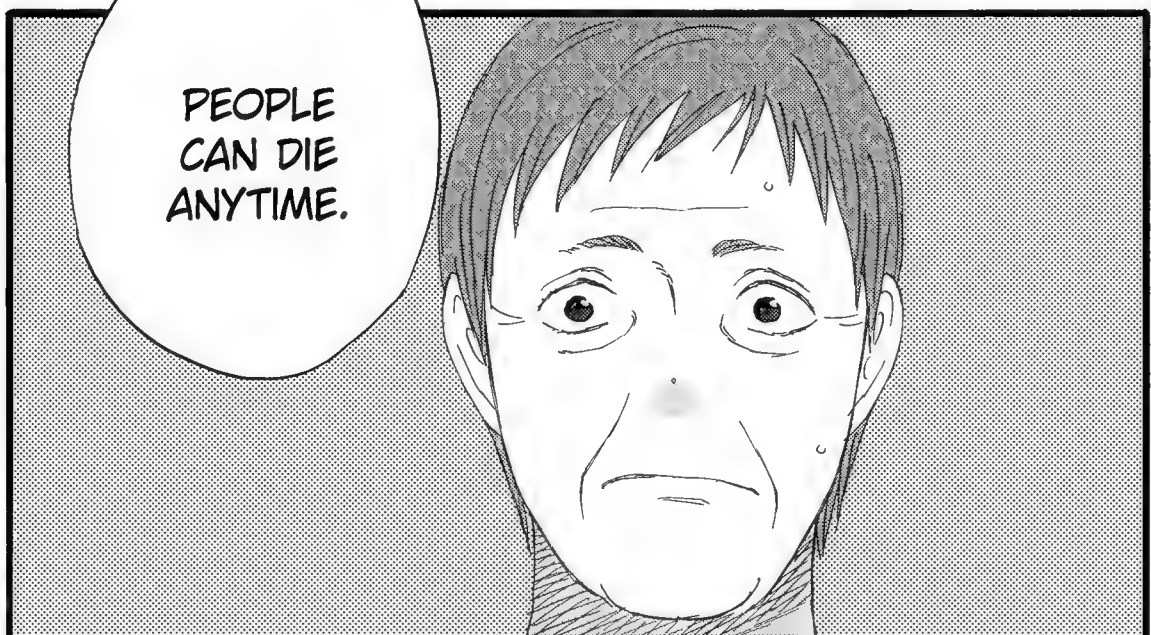
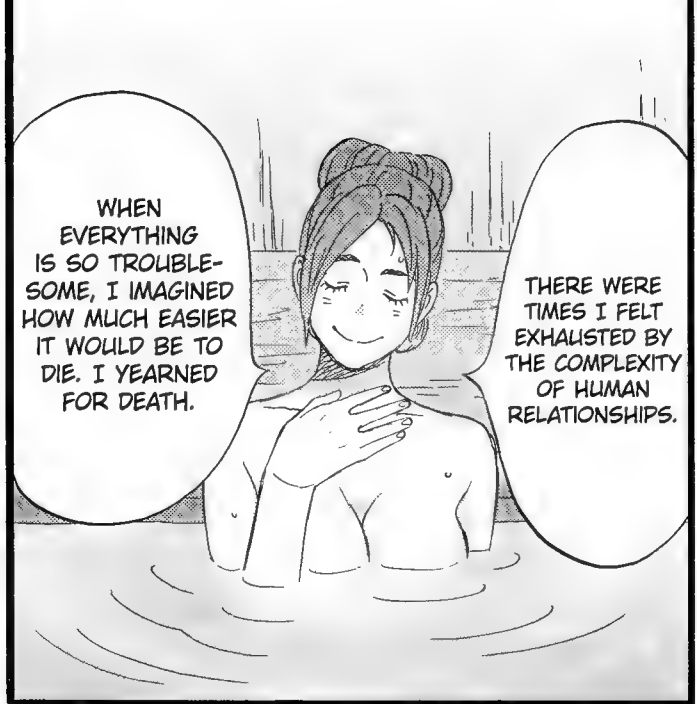
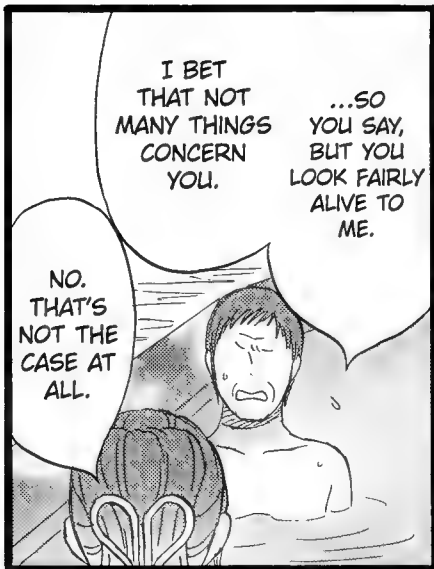


I'VE ALWAYS
FELT THAT
THE WORLD IS A
DIFFICULT PLACE TO
LIVE EVER SINCE I
WAS A CHILD.



I HAD
THE SAME
THOUGHTS
AS YOU, BUT
WENT ABOUT IN
A SLIGHTLY
DIFFERENT
WAY.

WHAT ARE
YOU SAYING?
IT'S NORMAL
FOR PEOPLE
TO THINK THAT
THEY WANT
TO DIE.



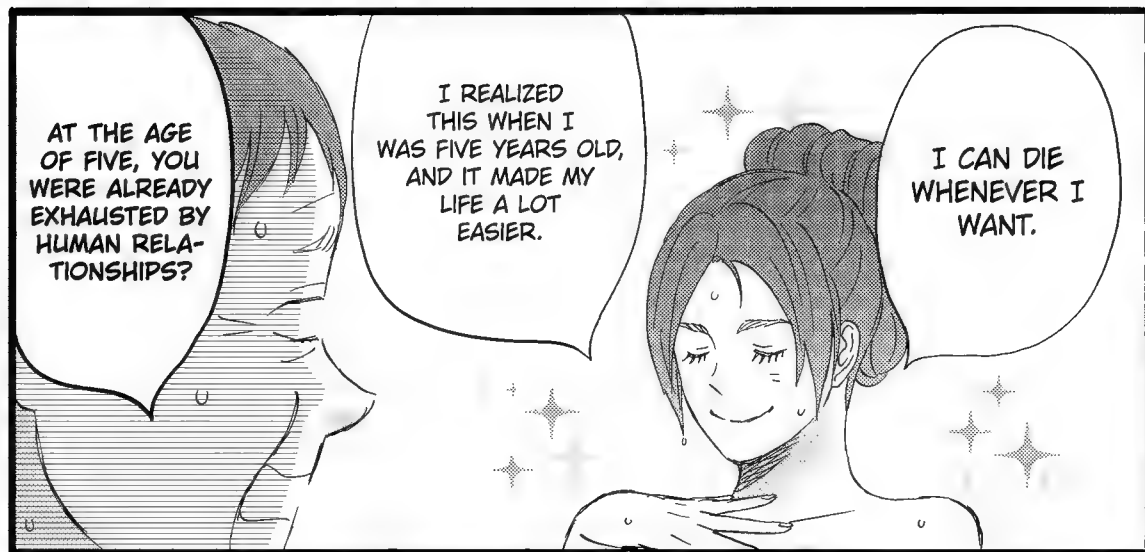


THAT'S WHAT
I STARTED
THINKING.



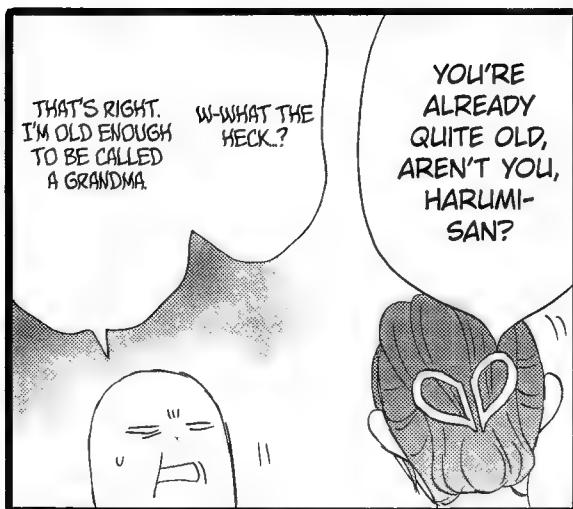
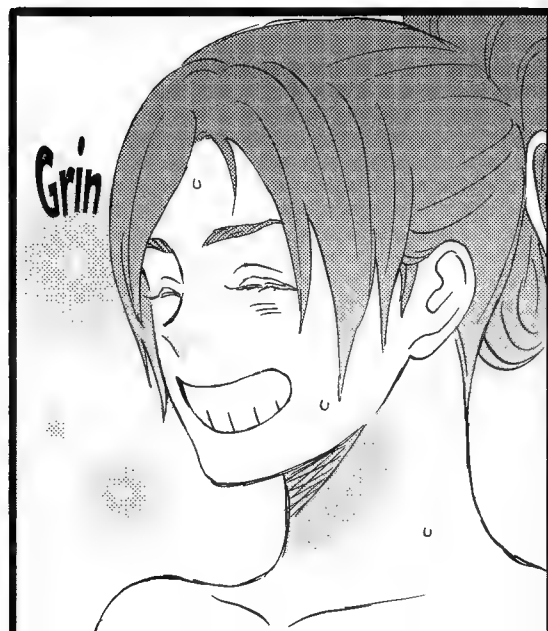
YEAH!

ANYTIME...?



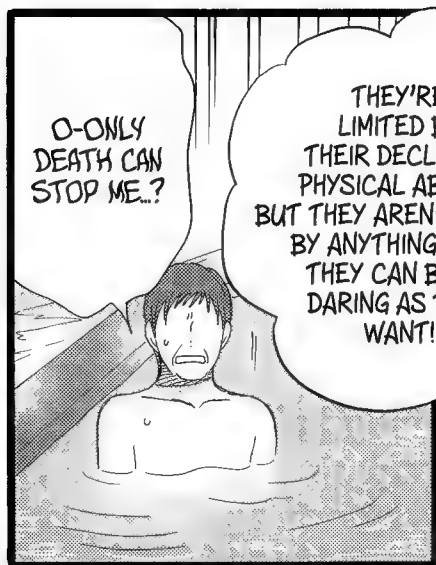
AT THE AGE
OF FIVE, YOU
WERE ALREADY
EXHAUSTED BY
HUMAN RELA-
TIONSHPIS?

I CAN DIE
WHENEVER I
WANT.

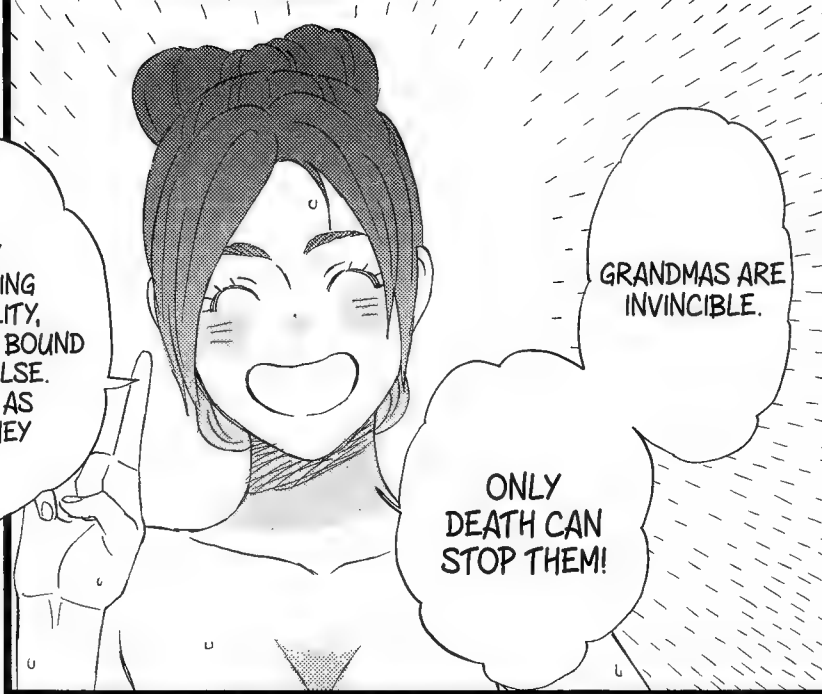


W-WHAT THE
HECK..?

YOU'RE
ALREADY
QUITE OLD,
AREN'T YOU,
HARUMI-
SAN?



THEY'RE LIMITED BY THEIR DECLINING PHYSICAL ABILITY, BUT THEY AREN'T BOUND BY ANYTHING ELSE. THEY CAN BE AS DARING AS THEY WANT!



Heh
heh...

BUT I CAN
FINALLY SEE
WHY SHIROU
WOULD FALL
FOR YOU.

THAT
CHILD HAS
ALWAYS LOVED
INTERESTING
THINGS.

...THAT
THOUGHT JUST
CROSSED MY
MIND.

I'D LIKE TO
TRY LIVING
THE REST OF
MY LIFE THE
WAY YOU
DO...

I DON'T THINK
IT'LL BE SMOOTH
SAILING AT FIRST,
BUT...



I'M SORRY
THAT I ASKED
SOMEONE TO
LOOK INTO
YOU.



NO WORRIES.
I'M USED TO BEING
STALKED.

WHAAAT...?



OHH...
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
ALREADY
ASLEEP.

WELCOME
BACK!

THERE'S
NO WAY
I COULD
SLEEP!

HM?
IS THAT
SO?

Squeeze



SLAM

I'M
BACK...



I MET HARUMI-SAN IN THE OPEN-AIR BATH AND WE TALKED A LOT.



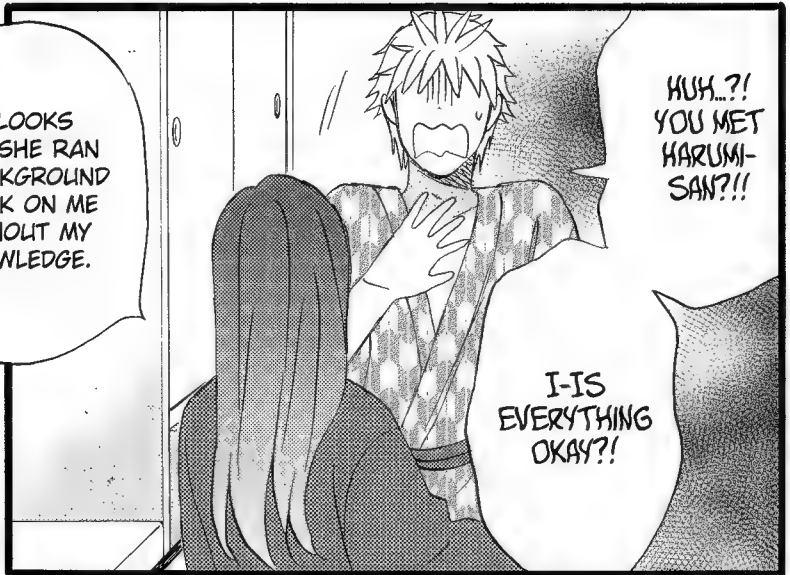
CAN WE PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT...



T-THAT'S WHAT YOU TALKED ABOUT?

UGH!

IT LOOKS LIKE SHE RAN A BACKGROUND CHECK ON ME WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE.



HUH...?! YOU MET HARUMI-SAN?!!

I-IS EVERYTHING OKAY?!



S-SO?

I CAN ONLY EXPECT A DISASTROUS OUTCOME FROM SUCH A CONVERSATION...!

EEK... I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH A SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT OCCURRED BEFORE I COULD EVEN ASK MY AUNT ABOUT IT...!

Tremble Tremble

